

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ATHENS 02642 042019Z

70

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAJ-01 ACDA-05

/063 W

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P R 041850Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8192

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

USMISSION NATO

CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN

CINCUSNAVEUR

USCINCEUR

USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES

DIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 2642

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI PFOR GR TU

SUBJ: BACKGROUND NOTES ON TURKISH AERIAL PROVOCATIONS

REF A. ATHENS 2603 B. ATHENS 2606 C. ATHENS 2459 D. ATHENS 2297

1. MOST RECENT OVERFLIGHTS OF GREEK ISLANDS 3 APRIL BY
TURKISH AIR FORCE (REFTELS A AND B) AS WELL AS PRIOR ONES LATE
MARCH HAVE PROVOKED CONSIDERABLE CONCERN IN GREECE AS
EVIDENCED INTER ALIA BY WIDE CURRENCY OF RUMORS REGARDING
TURKISH INTENTIONS AND GOG STATEMENTS SEEKING TO
CALM ATMOSPHERE (REFTELS C AND D). A POSSIBLE RATIONALE
FOR SPATE OF TURKISH OVERFLIGHTS WAS SUGGESTED TO
EMBOFF BY MFA OFFICIAL IN RECENT CONVERSATION (PARA 2 BELOW).

2. IN COURSE WIDE-RANGING EXCHANGE, MFA OFFICIAL
SUGGESTED THAT TURKISH SENSITIVITIES MIGHT HAVE BEEN
RUFFLED IN EARLY MARCH AT TIME GOT REQUESTED GREEK
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PAGE 02 ATHENS 02642 042019Z

AUTHORITIES FOR PERMISSION CARRY OUT MILITARY EXERCISES

WITHIN ATHENS FLIGHT INFORMATION REGION (FIR).
ALTHOUGH GREECE PLEASED BY REQUEST (GOT HAD NEGLECTED
FILE SUCH REQUESTS ON NUMBER OF OCCASIONS IN PAST
YEAR) GOG NEVERTHELESS DECIDED TO "STICK TO THE LETTER"
OF RELEVANT PROTOCOL AND NOT GRANT REQUEST UNTIL JUST
BEFORE LAPSE OF FULL TIME FRAME ALLOWED, I.E. WITHIN
SEVEN DAYS PRIOR COMMENCEMENT EXERCISES. SOME "15
MINUTES" BEFORE THAT DEADLINE, AS GOG PREPARING TO
GRANT AFFIRMATIVE ANSWER BY ISSUING NOTAM, TURKS
JUMPED THE GUN AND ISSUED OWN NOTAM (MFA OFFICIAL
SUGGESTED THIS ACTION TAKEN BECAUSE TURKS "UPSET AND
NERVOUS" BY DELAY IN GREEK RESPONSE). GOG THEN
QUICKLY ISSUED ITS PREVIOUSLY PREPARED NOTAM AND AT
SAME TIME TOOK NOTE OF ILLEGAL TURKISH NOTAM." MFA
OFFICIAL SUGGESTED THAT "BAD FEELINGS" ENGENDERED
BY THIS "BY-PLAY" MIGHT HAVE INSTIGATED SERIES OF
PROVOCATIVE OVERFLIGHTS WHICH SHORTLY FOLLOWED.

3. AS COMMENTARY ON MFA OFFICIAL'S REMARKS, EMBASSY
AIR ATTACHE HAS DRAWN ATTENTION TO FACT THAT AT LEAST
ONE ENTRY ON GREEK NOTAM MIGHT HAVE CONSTITUTED A
SPECIAL IRRITANT TO TURKS, E.G. A REQUIREMENT THAT
TURKISH AIRCRAFT ENGAGED IN EXERCISES SHOULD NOT
APPROACH WITHIN TEN MILES OF GREEK BOUNDARIES. THIS
REQUIREMENT IS GREATER THAN NORMAL REQUIREMENT
RELATED TO SIX-MILE TERRITORIAL LIMIT. AIR ATTACHE
ALSO SUGGESTS THAT GREEK SIDE IN ITS TURN MIGHT HAVE
BEEN IRRITATED BY FACT THAT TURKISH NOTAM AS ISSUED
PRESENTS DIFFERENT DATES, TIMES AND A DIFFERENT RANGE OF
ALTITUDES FOR ITS EXERCISE THAN THOSE REQUESTED FROM THE
GREEKS ORIGINALLY. IN ORIGINAL TURKISH REQUEST, PER-
MISSION SOUGHT FOR EXERCISE MARCH 20 ONLY WHEREAS WHEN
TURKS ISSUED OWN NOTAM, PERIOD SHOWN WAS MARCH 16
THROUGH MARCH 20. KUBISCH

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